



WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

TO THE CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Membership

IN STARTING the year 1961-1962, Mrs. Lawrence Custer, president of the Woman's Auxiliary to the California Medical Association, has asked that a different committee chairman give a report for this page each month. This month has been assigned to the Committee on Membership.

Organized in 1929 with a membership of 472 in ten counties, the Auxiliary has grown rapidly through the years. Under the able guidance of Mrs. Floyd Anderson, Membership chairman for 1960-1961, the Auxiliary has achieved a membership of 7,173 in thirty-four counties. The largest county auxiliary is that of Los Angeles, with a membership of 1,707. The smallest is Tehama county's with a membership of 15. There are also 37 members-at-large in unorganized counties.

Whether she is aware of it or not, the physician's wife, through her community contacts, acts as a liaison between the public and the medical profession. It is in this manner that she can make her greatest contribution, for she has an influence that is almost immeasurable.

Membership in the Auxiliary is a privilege and a responsibility. Through her Auxiliary membership, the physician's wife may be kept informed regarding current trends affecting medicine, and what to do about them. She must rely on words for day by day communication. Those words and the manner in which they are spoken carry a grave responsibility. She must always remember that she is

often quoted not as an individual but as a physician's wife.

Membership in an auxiliary provides an opportunity for physicians' wives to work toward a common goal with others who have the same interests. The essentials for a thriving, high-level membership are harmony among members, lively absorbing programs and complete understanding of the policies and purposes of the A.M.A.

Membership is the keystone of organization. To make the structure above it strong takes workers with enthusiasm and conviction—a strong committee, well informed on all phases of auxiliary program and striving to make "every member a part of the membership committee."

A friendly personal invitation is still the best method for recruiting new members. In one community, two charming Auxiliary members call on each prospective member. Needless to say, almost all join. A special effort should be made to make the recruit feel welcome, introducing her to other members and arranging transportation to meetings if needed.

We recognize we are an Auxiliary; therefore the aims, the challenges and the problems of the Medical Association are ours. I should like to quote from Mrs. Anderson's message in the Auxiliary workbook: "No endeavor is good enough—if it can be made better. We still need every doctor's wife to give the Auxiliary greater strength and influence."

MRS. HOMER WOLFSEN

*Membership Chairman
Woman's Auxiliary to the
California Medical Association*